

Report to Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum
10th October 2019

Report of Norfolk Strategic Framework Programme Manager

Subject Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework Progress

Purpose

To update members on progress of Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework 2019/20 work programme.

Recommendation

To note the contents of this report and progress made on the NSPF.
To recommend a change to the NSPF to include a new foot note on table 9 highlighting that *'At this point in time North Norfolk District Council is considering if an alternative approach to establishing OAN is justified'*.

Financial implications

No financial implications.

Contact officers

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Further Information

None.

Report

Purpose

The purpose of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) Programme is to update and maintain the previously endorsed NSPF to:

- Ensure the document meets the new requirements of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) particularly:
 - it meets the requirements set out for the Statement of Common Ground (SCG)
 - it is updated to assess the impacts of the new housing methodology on the housing section and the ability of each authority to meet its own housing needs
- Complete the commitments set out in the previously endorsed document including:
 - Updated guidance on 5G and broadband
 - Update to the Health Protocol and health section following further improved engagement with the Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)
 - Update to the utilities section following further improved engagement with UK Power Networks and Anglian Water
 - Review tier one employment sites

The NSPF will be reviewed regularly as the duty to co-operate requires authorities to work together in 'an ongoing and meaningful way' and Statement of Common Ground must 'reflect the most up to date position in terms of joint working across the area'.

Revised NSPF and Endorsement

1. A revised NSPF was considered at the July 2019 Member Forum. At this meeting it was agreed that, subject to some minor amendments to the wording around water and climate change, the NSPF could be taken forward for endorsement by each authority.
2. Since then each authority (except Breckland) has taken the NSPF to their relevant cabinet/council meetings for endorsement.
3. The document also continues to be endorsed by the New Anglia LEP, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Anglian Water.
4. The Marine Management Organisation will not endorse this version of the document but we'll work with them over the next few months to ensure they are able to sign up to the next version.
5. The revised version of the NSPF is available via this link: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/partnerships/strategic-member-forum/norfolk-strategic-planning-framework.pdf?la=en>

North Norfolk Endorsement

6. All authorities have endorsed the NSPF in its current form with the exception of North Norfolk (and Breckland who have yet to take the NSPF to their Cabinet). North Norfolk took the revised NSPF to their Built Heritage Working Party on the 19th August. The Working Party resolution was to endorse the NSPF subject to the modification of Agreement 10.
7. The modification of Agreement 10 requested by North Norfolk District Council involves the removal of the reference to table 9 as below:

When determining their respective Local Plan housing targets each authority, working together where desirable, will aim to deliver at least the local housing need as identified in the most up to date evidence (Table 9). Where this would result in unsustainable development, agreement will be sought with other authorities, initially within the same Housing Market Area, to ensure sufficient homes are provided to meet identified needs and demands in the area until at least 2036.
8. Table 9 sets out the Local Housing Need based on the new standard national methodology using the mid 2014 household projections.
9. There is concern among other authorities that agreement 10 effectively produces a County wide minimum figure which we are collectively agreeing to deliver and there is a risk that if any authority argues that their own number should be below the standard method there will be a risk that it will give rise to pressure for other authorities to meet the shortfall.
10. The Norfolk Strategic Planning Officers Group has considered North Norfolk's request and recommends a foot note is added to table 9 highlighting that '*At this point in time North Norfolk District Council is considering if an alternative approach to establishing OAN is justified*'. This avoids the need to update an agreement which has already been endorsed by most authorities.

Progress of Next Version of the NSPF

11. Much of the work is already underway for the third version of the NSPF. This will enhance areas deemed to need improvement and deliver a number of new joint studies to inform local plans. Details of progress with the various workstreams are given below.
12. **Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy** – Place Services were commissioned earlier in the year to produce a county wide Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy. This work is progressing well and we expect the output to include:
 - a. A review of the strategically significant opportunities for the provision of new and/or enhanced GI in the county
 - b. Understand the current management measures for visitors to the European sites and evidence for recreational disturbance, including any disturbance 'hotspots' or particular concerns with locations proposed for housing growth
 - c. Develop the mitigation necessary to avoid significant adverse effects from 'in-combination' impacts from residential development and identify a detailed programme of strategic mitigation measures which will be recommended to be funded by developer contributions from residential development schemesWe expect to be able to report back on the completion of this work at the member forum in January.

13. **Older Persons Accommodation and Support Needs Study** – Three Dragons have been commissioned to complete an Older Persons Accommodation and Support Needs Study. The study will
- a. Provide a robust evidence-based demand assessment of older people's accommodation until 2036 to inform local planning
 - b. Provide context on viability and how Local Planning Authorities can support development
 - c. Develop site identification criteria which can be used consistently across Norfolk

Work on this project has only recently got underway and consultants are currently looking at the demand modelling at district and large settlement level. Officers will be meeting with the consultants shortly to review their findings

14. **Climate Change** – The Climate Change group has been set up recently and will provide technical evidence and make recommendations in relation to strategic cross boundary initiatives which could help reduce the county's impact on Climate Change

15. **5G Shared guidance and the Broadband guides** – New guidance and joint policies to support the roll out of 5G and broadband to the county have been produced however recent government consultations on 5G have resulted in the need to review these before they are taken forward.

16. **Health** – Following the completion of the update of the Health Protocol authorities continue to work with Health Colleagues to understand how we can work together to ensure a better Health provision for the communities of Norfolk:

- a. Regular meetings are continuing to take place covering West Norfolk, Central Norfolk and Great Yarmouth and Waveney to:
 - i. Review Local Plan progress
 - ii. Provide updates on current and forthcoming key development schemes,
 - iii. Provide updates on key healthcare developments and new facilities
 - iv. Review production of health Infrastructure Delivery Plans
 - v. Review key planning changes/legislation/S106/CIL
- b. Authorities are reviewing the HUDU model that the STP have introduced to provide a comprehensive and detailed response to health infrastructure and revenue requirements and impacts to a planning application. The response encompasses all health partners, including acute, mental health, community and primary care.
- c. The STP are working on producing Health Infrastructure Delivery plans for each of the CCGs in the county, LPAs will continue to work with the STP to support their production.

We expect to be able to report back on these activities at the January 2020 member forum.

17. There is a separate paper to cover the high level programme of work for the next financial year and the financial implications of producing the next version of the NSPF.